

Story of Friedrich Ebert, Harnessmaker, Who Became The Ruler of Germany

Intimate Sketch of the Newly Appointed Chancellor Given to The Evening World by Daniel Blumenthal, a Former Member of the German Reichstag, Now Stopping in New York, and a Forecast of Conditions Which May Follow in Germany When Soldiers Return From the Front.

FRIEDRICH EBERT, present ruler of Germany and Chancellor by appointment of Prince Max of Baden, is a passing figurehead whose power in the Kaiser's late domain will be more short-lived than that of Kerensky in Russia, according to Daniel Blumenthal, for ten years a member of the Reichstag and for more than a decade Mayor of the City of Colmar, Alsace. Mr. Blumenthal is stopping at the Hotel Vanderbilt and will return to his home in Colmar.

Riot, bloodshed, rapine, murder and inconceivable disorders will probably sweep the German Empire before anything approaching a stable Government can be established, Mr. Blumenthal believes. The terrors of the French Revolution and the red horrors of the Bolshevik regime in Russia will fade to pale insignificance compared to the great upheaval that can be expected to convulse Germany when the armies return from the fighting fronts.

While a roaring, shouting throng swirled and gyrated in a mad peace celebration beneath his windows in the Hotel Vanderbilt, Mr. Blumenthal told an Evening World reporter yesterday of his ten years of intimacy with Chancellor Ebert and of his many meetings with the Kaiser.

"Friederich Ebert is a man who has risen from the pavement," said Mr.

Blumenthal. "He was a harness-maker by trade before entering political life. He is a man of some capabilities, but has always been a cat-paw for some one higher up. The Kaiser has used him when there was some imperial end to be gained, as have others of the royal household. He is a man who lacks initiative and who seldom acts until he has heard his master's voice.

"His ability as a statesman is negligible. That he could measure up to the situation that confronts Germany to-day is inconceivable.

"In the rapidly revolving political and social situation in the empire he is but a passing figure. That situation will revolve faster and faster as the true import of the Government's collapse seeps into the intellect of the people.

"The great upheaval within Germany will not come until the men who have been in the trenches return and begin to think other thoughts than those of killing Entente soldiers. When they do begin to think these thoughts they may conceive the idea of another kind of killing.

"The soldiers will return from the fighting lines with only one instinctive method of settling a question—that of force. They will not realize the full scope of their defeat until they get home.

"When they do realize this and begin to consider, the monumental sacrifices they have been making to no end but defeat, disaster, hunger and poverty, they will begin to see red and look for some one upon whom to wreak vengeance.

"In my opinion they will not only wreak this upon whatever form of government happens to be existing at the time but will hold the civil population to blame as well. They will figure that in permitting the Government to continue with its mishandling of the nation's affairs the people were as guilty as the imperial rulers them-

"Ebert was elected to the Reichstag about 1912 and remained in the submerged background until war conditions made him a useful tool for the Kaiser and other men in power. He is a man about thirty-five years old and at first he is opposed to the Kaiser and that in the past have ruled Germany."

"Being a man of limited intellect himself, he has been jealously opposed to those men of Germany who have represented the 'best minds' of the country. He has catered to the militarists, the rich and the intellectual only because he had to in order to maintain his position.

"He would deny the existence of absolute facts if those facts were not to his liking.

"At the present time no man can foretell accurately what will happen.

"However, so long as the Kaiser remained in power Ebert never permitted his true feelings to interfere with anything the 'All Highest' demanded of him. He was nothing more than a tool in the hands of the powers that were.

"What this man will do now, with the great power that he himself conceals, is something that remains to be seen. That he will be overthrown by succeeding elements of radicals seems to me to be a foregone conclusion. He is not the man to do that. He is like the present emperor, Liebknecht, who has been crying for the overthrow of the Czar, and who has been crying for the overthrow of the Czar."

WHERE IT BELONGED.

While traveling through Ohio few years ago Prof. T. C. Mendenhall of the Worcester Institute consented to address a few remarks to the pupils of the district school he had attended when a boy.

"Did any of you," he asked, "ever see an elephant skin?"

A boy held up his hand and was given the exclamation:

"Well," said the professor, "I have," said the boy.

"Where did you see it?"

"On an elephant,"—"Woman's Hour."

Copyright, 1911, by the Associated Press.

"Ebert was elected to the Reichstag about 1912 and remained in the submerged background until war conditions made him a useful tool for the soldiers who were no longer loyal. When he says he abdicated for the good of Germany he says something that must cause well-informed Germans to laugh. He might have abdicated three years

Kaiser and other men in power. He is a man about forty-five years old and at heart is opposed to the elements that in the past have ruled Germany.

"Being a man of limited intellect himself, he has been jealously opposed to those men of Germany who have represented the 'best minds of the country. He has catered to the militarists, the rich and the intellectuals only because he had to in order to maintain his position.

"single-track mind of his own, and on that single track ran his own opinions. And they were absolutely unalterable.

"He would deny the existence of absolute facts if those facts were not to his liking.

"At the present time no man can foretell accurately what will happen in

"However, so long as the Kaiser remained in power Ebert never permitted his true feelings to interfere with anything the 'All Highest' demanded of him. He was nothing

manded more than a tool in the hands of the powers that were.

What this man will do now, with the great power that he himself controls, is something that remains to be seen. That he will be overthrown by succeeding elements of radicals seems to me to be a foregone conclusion. He is not the man to meet a crisis like the present one. Life is a game that which shook Russia after the abdication of the Czar."

WHERE IT BELONGED.

While traveling through Ohio a few years ago Prof. T. C. Mendenhall of the Worcester Institute consented to address a few remarks to the pupils of the district school that he had attended when a boy.

"Did any of you," he asked, "ever see an elephant skin?"

A boy held up his hand and wiggled excitedly.

"Well?" said the professor.

"I have," said the boy.

"Where did you see it?"

"On an elephant."—"Woman's Home Companion."